



Austin Public Health



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Stephanie Hayden, Interim Director 

DATE: November 29, 2017

SUBJECT: Response to CIUR 1967-Youth Justice Workgroup Resolution

Austin Public Health (APH) was charged with responding to Resolution No. 20171012-016. The resolution directed the formation of a Youth Justice Workgroup (YJW) tasked with making recommendations to support young people in Austin, focusing specifically on dismantling the school-to-prison pipeline, minimizing in-school policing and reducing contact between youth and the justice system.

A steering team has been established with an initial focus to identify all the agencies, organization and stakeholders that are knowledgeable of the issues, have some expertise in the subject matter and, have a significant interest in the current practices and policies. The team identified and invited over 50 stakeholders consisting of youth, school representatives, counselors, social workers, law enforcement officers, child welfare advocates and a host of others to be a part of the Youth Justice Workgroup. Staff are in the process of compiling the topics the group wants to focus on which includes broad topics of reducing juvenile detention, to more concrete projects. The workgroup will continue to meet on a monthly basis and will provide subsequent quarterly reports.

Since youth justice issues are not unique to Austin, we will also research how other cities address these issues. In addition, we will follow up on previous efforts initiated such as reviewing data, seeking alternative practices and policies, and identifying best practices that have produced measurable outcomes and successes in law enforcement efforts.

The following table provides a summary of the work to date. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Work To Date		
Activity	Progress/Decisions made	Status
1. Contacted the Curfew Workgroup for their input	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established steering team to discuss the makeup of the workgroup. 	Completed
2. Identified the participants of the YJW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Considered all the agencies, organizations and stakeholders that needed to be included as a part of the workgroup. Invitations were sent to 50 stakeholders, representing 25 agencies 	Completed
3. Held first YJW meeting	<p>Discussed purpose of meeting and City Council Resolution and overall logistics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Placed emphasis on all voices to be heard, particularly the youth voice, those directly impacted by in-school policing practices Brainstormed issues to focus on as a group. Suggestions included broad topics (e.g., reducing juvenile detention) to more concrete projects (e.g., know your rights/ history campaign) The meeting closed with participants suggesting the use of restorative justice practices in the meetings; challenging institutions that perpetuate racism; the importance of staying engaged and seeing it to conclusion 	Completed
4. Survey to determine follow up issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Various items were discussed and are on the table for follow-up and further development (i.e., meeting times, location, topics of further review and development, data collection, etc.) 	In Progress
5. Review of previous Austin efforts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other efforts from workgroups, committees, task forces, pilots and initiatives will be reviewed including AISD Joint Subcommittee's Judicial Supports Task Force, the Residential and School Mobility Working Group's Integrated Case Management Pilot, and the Neighborhood Conference -Committee School Based Workgroup 	In Progress

cc: Sara Hensley, Interim Assistant City Manager
Donna Sundstrom, Assistant Director, APH